

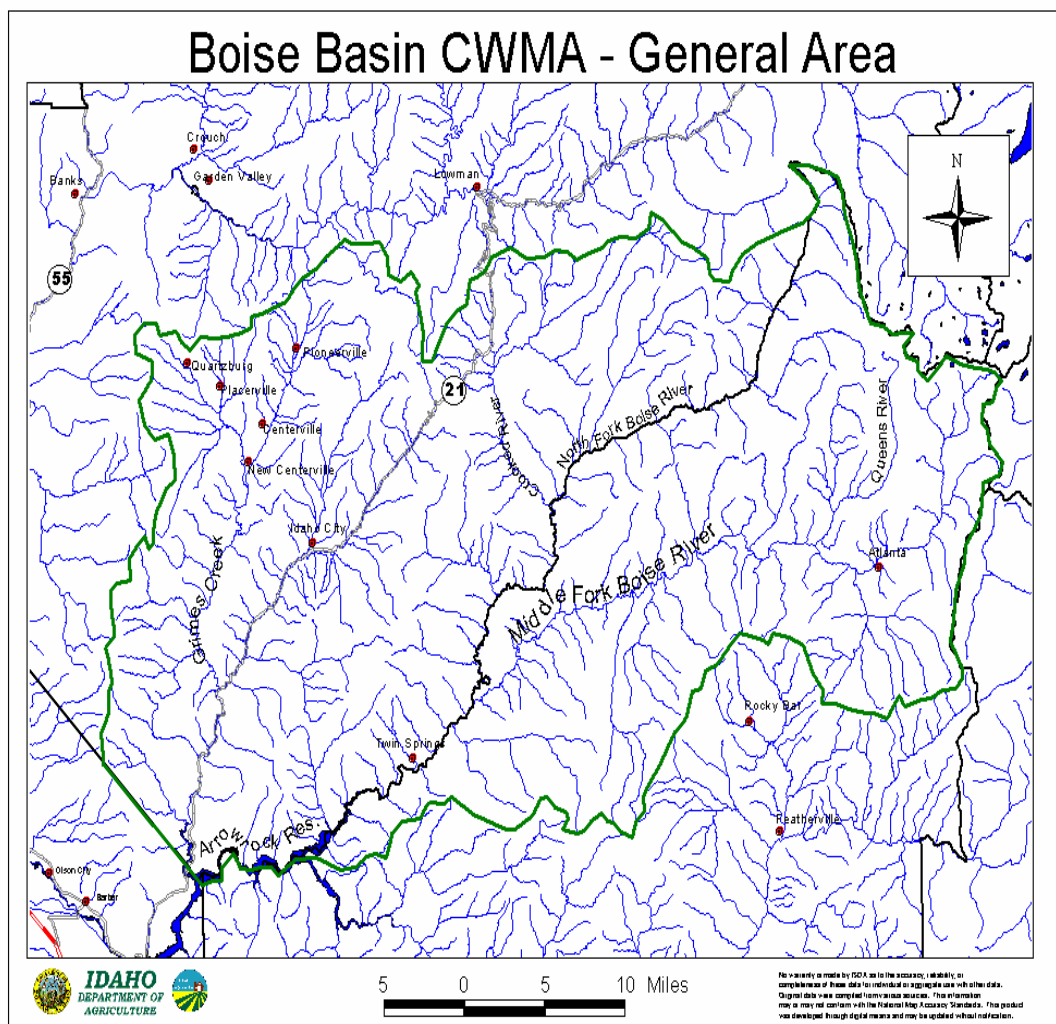
BOISE BASIN

COOPERATIVE WEED MANAGEMENT AREA 2003 ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT



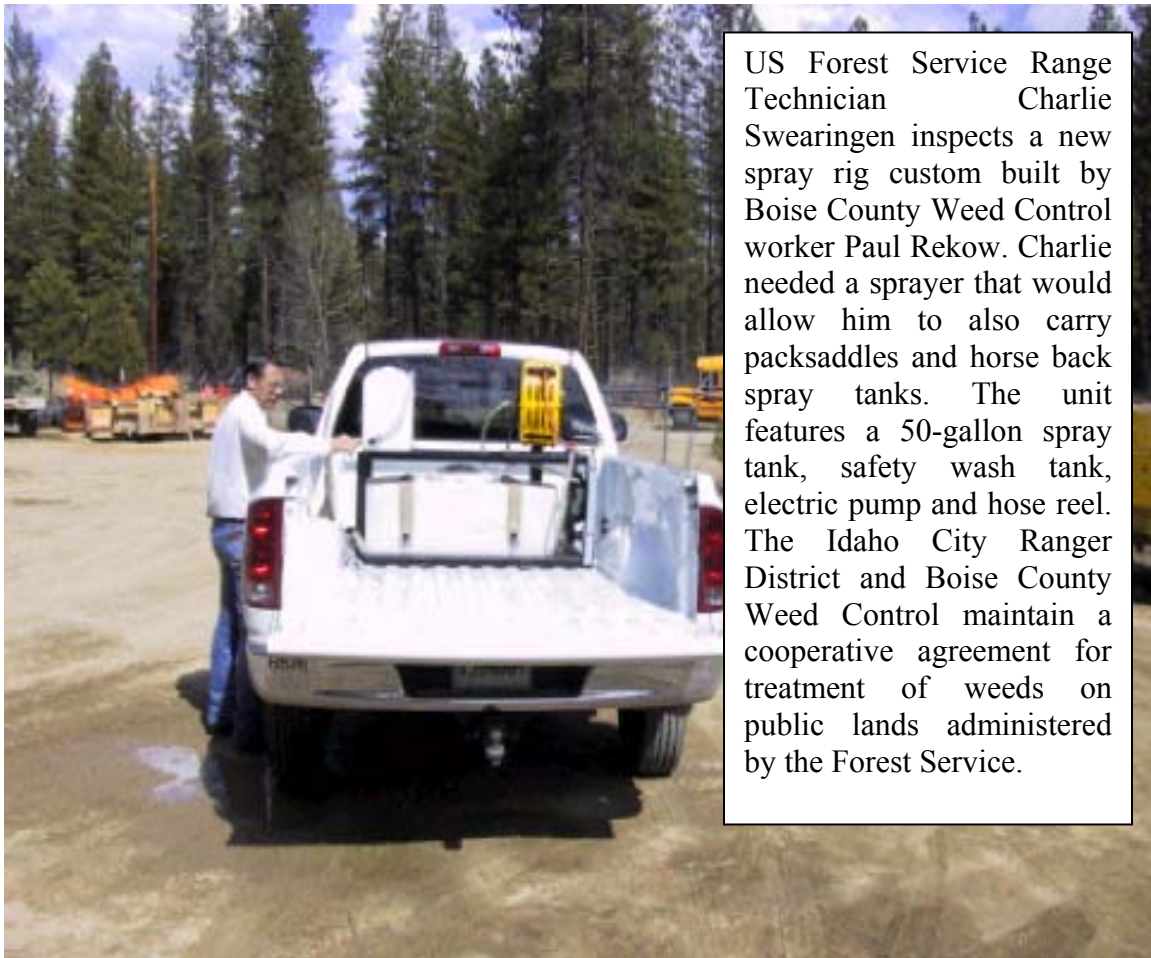
Treating Dalmation Toadflax along the Sawtooth National Recreation Area wilderness boundary near Atlanta. Dalmation Toadflax infests over 2500 acres of private and National Forest lands along the Boise River's Middle Fork.

The Boise Basin Cooperative Weed Management Area (BBCWMA) was established in the early summer of 2000. The goal is to create an effective weed management program in the Boise Basin that included the North and Middle Forks of the Boise River and the Mores and Grimes Creek drainages. The BBCWMA covers approximately 838,540 acres in Boise and Elmore Counties, Idaho. The BBCWMA brings landowners and managers together in cooperation to address noxious weed problems in the basin. Cooperators include Boise and Elmore Counties, Boise National Forest, Bureau of Land Management, the Idaho State Departments of Lands, Transportation, Agriculture and Fish and Game, Boise Cascade Corporation and Private Land Owners.



BBCWMA Cooperators identified three areas in which to conduct joint projects. The projects for 2003 concentrated efforts in weed control were:

- ❖ Spotted Knapweed in the Minneha Creek and Spanish Fork drainages on State Lands.
- ❖ Spotted Knapweed in the Idaho City area on private lands.
- ❖ Dalmation Toadflax, Spotted Knapweed, White Top, and Orange Hawkweed on National Forest and private lands in the Atlanta Basin.



US Forest Service Range Technician Charlie Swearingen inspects a new spray rig custom built by Boise County Weed Control worker Paul Rekow. Charlie needed a sprayer that would allow him to also carry packsaddles and horse back spray tanks. The unit features a 50-gallon spray tank, safety wash tank, electric pump and hose reel. The Idaho City Ranger District and Boise County Weed Control maintain a cooperative agreement for treatment of weeds on public lands administered by the Forest Service.

Minneha Creek and Spanish Fork are near Idaho City and have infestations of Spotted Knapweed and Rush Skeletonweed. These areas provide winter range for numerous species of wildlife, including big game and recreation on the roads and trails that cover the area. The majority of this area is under the jurisdiction of the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL). Weed workers from IDL and Boise County pooled resources and cooperatively treated weeds on over 16 miles of roads and 540 acres. An ISDA Cost Share covered the cost of treatment chemicals.



Idaho City has an infestation of Spotted Knapweed that covers mostly private land that is dispersed in small parcels. Landowners are often uninformed about the problem that this noxious weed poses and are ill equipped to deal with weeds. Boise County Weed Control with the help of a Cost Share grant organized three “Spray Days” to provide information, equipment and chemicals to

assist these landowners. The days started with Weed Superintendent Mike Bottoms giving instruction on plant identification, what makes some weeds “noxious”, safety, use of equipment, and use of herbicides. Landowners were then allowed to check out backpack sprayers and treat weeds on their own properties. The project was successful in treating over 430 acres for Spotted knapweed and gaining community involvement. The Boise Basin CWMA intends to continue this project in 2004. Landowners were enthusiastic about the opportunity to control weeds and readily received help and suggestions from county weed workers. The training and equipment check out was held at the Boise County Road and Bridge Shop. Landowners (including a county commissioner) were encouraged by the offer of help and chemicals in exchange for doing the work. Numerous good comments were received and everyone wanted to know if the program would continue.

Atlanta sits on the headwaters of the Middle Fork of the Boise River, gateway to the Sawtooth Wilderness Area and is a scenic attraction to visitors. Atlanta can also claim an abundance of noxious weeds, Dalmation Toadflax, Spotted Knapweed, White Top, Orange Hawkweed and Canada thistle. The remote and rugged terrain this area presents many challenges to weed control. Atlanta was also on the edge of the Hot Creek Fire. BBCWMA Cooperators worked over 600 man-hours and treated over 1400 acres in this area during the 2003 summer.



The BBCWMA contracted with a local resident for weed control on private land with the cost covered by an ISDA costshare. The fire and accompanying mudslides hampered

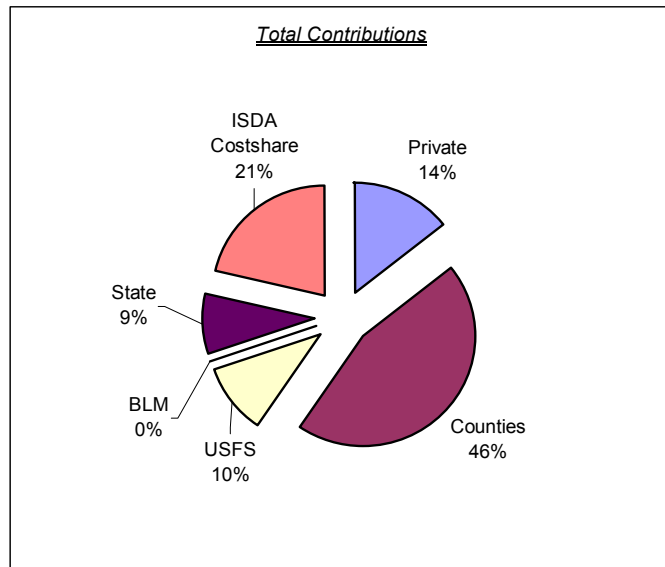
the contract effort and the Forest Service and Boise County Weed Control stepped in to complete work on a mine tailing reclamation project. Continued effort is needed in this area for years to come if we are to achieve control and prevent the spread of weed into the wilderness area and along the many roads and trails used for recreation.



Weed workers stayed at the Atlanta Guard Station in quarters provided by the US Forest Service. A wide variety of equipment used including horses with sprayers, ATV's, pickups and backpack sprayers to access the area. Biological control agents have also been released in the Atlanta Basin.

The cost of weed control within to CWMA is divided among the various landowners and managers with in the constraints of time and money. This chart shows the contributions of cooperators to control noxious weeds on BBCWMA projects this year. Contributions may be cash expended to purchase equipment or materials and supplies or hire contractors, or the contribution may be use of existing equipment and labor to provide treatment.

<u>Contributor</u>	<u>Cash Value</u>
Private	\$8,305
Counties	\$26,030
USFS	\$5,955
BLM	\$0
State	\$5,300
ISDA Costshare	\$12,303
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$57,893</u>



Proposed projects for 2004 include:

- ❖ Continued work in the Atlanta Basin on both public and private lands
- ❖ Spotted Knapweed control in the Spanish Fork drainage
- ❖ Making horse back spray equipment available to cooperators and land managers
- ❖ Community spray days in Idaho City for the control of Spotted Knapweed

**The Boise Basin Cooperative Weed Management Area
Would like to thank all our cooperators and:**

Boise County Board of Commissioners

Elmore County Board of Commissioners

Idaho Department of Lands

Idaho Department of Agriculture

United States Forest Service, Idaho City Ranger District

**For your support in the control of Noxious
Weeds**

Appendix I

For More Information concerning this or other Cooperative Weed Management Areas please contact our Steering Committee or your County Weed Control Superintendent.

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Appendix II

PROJECT SUMMARIES BY SPECIES AND ACRES TREATED

PROJECT NAME	WEED SPECIES TREATED	ACRES TREATED
Minneha Creek / Spanish Fork	Spotted Knapweed	540
Idaho City “Spray Days”	Spotted Knapweed	430
Atlanta Basin Treatment	Dalmation Toadflax	1400
	Orange Hawkweed	2
	White Top	0
	Canada Thistle	2
	Spotted Knapweed	140
Atlanta Contract Applicator	Dalmation Toadflax	20
	Orange Hawkweed	2
	White Top	5
	Canada Thistle	1
	Spotted Knapweed	10